Save Foggy Bottom...It's Where We Live! Published by the Foggy Bottom Association

# FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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## From the Editor
## All Politics Is Local

The late Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill put it best when he said "All Politics Is Local." This is as true for Foggy Bottom and the West End as it was for any of the country's congressional districts the wily speaker was intimately familiar with.

The Washington Post on Jan. 17 reported on a new study that the two biggest quality-of-life issues cited by Washington-area residents were a lack of affordable housing and traffic congestion. Our area, too, is a microcosm of these concerns. What's happening to the city and even the country can be seen here: more traffic and gridlock, more unaffordable housing (to most working people) and even more headaches.

It's all enough to drive you – to your local civic group. At least it was in my case. The GW Hatchet interviewed me and did a story on the revived FBN last week; it ran in the paper's Jan. 17 issue. (www.gwhatchet.com) Talking to their reporter, Kaitlyn Jahrling (who regularly attends and covers FBA and Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A meetings and issues), made me reflect a bit on why I jumped into the fray and joined the FBA a few years ago.

I live in the West End in a modest building called the Tiverton, which has about 47 apartments. We're known for having quite a few of the city's finest bicycle messengers living in our building, certainly a necessary service in this town. Several years ago we began to hear rumors that our block – which, we came to learn was a numbered square; in our case, Square 37 – was potentially up for "rezoning." That would have meant "the price of poker was going up."

Several of our residents were somewhat familiar with the FBA, some more than others. Through some interaction with the association, and the ANC (then chaired by Elizabeth Elliott), we began to learn more about "how things work" in the city. To paraphrase Otto von Bismarck's take on laws and sausages – sometimes it's better not to see how they are made, he said – we started to feel the same about zoning regulations. But when your building's potentially on the block, it's not like you have much of a choice. The choice was to do nothing, or do something. We chose to do something.

That something started with getting involved with the good people of the FBA. On the night of the full moon in January 2002 I was supposed to give a brief talk at the FBA's meeting. I had a 100-plus fever and I didn't feel up to it, but my tenants told me they'd carry me if they had to. Four of the tenants in our building have now lived there for more than 25 years; about four more of us have been here for more than 10. We didn't really feel like moving outside the Beltway when our lives are so integrated here, even if things were changing all around us.

Of course, this is not unique to us, or even our neighborhood. It's happening all over the city, as well documented in the Post's excellent recent series by reporter Debbi Wilgoren on tenants on W St. who fought for years to save their building. The redevelopment of the Sursum Corda apartments on North Capitol St. is another example of a situation that may lead to a good outcome for residents. Not all buildings or tenants have been so lucky.

In our case, the FBA helped us network with key city officials, including Ellen McCarthy at the Office of Planning and others, holding formal and informal meetings with officials and housing advocates alike. For now, our situation has had a happy outcome – beating some odds, the Zoning Commission ruled 4-0 in June 2004 that Square 37's zoning could remain at a residential density.

Coming together in a civic group is a good example that all politics is local. Politics is often a dirty word, especially in D.C., but it doesn't have to be. We all share something in common wherever we live: "We're all in it together."

We hope to see you at Monday's FBA meeting!

*– MGM*

## FBA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MONDAY

The FBA's general membership meeting will be held next Monday, Jan. 30, at the Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, at 7:30 pm.

**All Foggy Bottom and West End residents welcome.**

Speaker: Marie Karl
Trammell Crow Company
Columbia Condominium Developers

*Feb. 27 speaker: Councilmember Jim Graham (D – Ward One)*

*Late News*
## ANC Elects New Officers

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A voted for its officers at its Jan. 18 meeting.

The results:

**Chair:**
Vincent Micone (2A06)

**Vice Chair:**
David Lehrman (2A01)

*Details to follow in next week's issue.*

## Reader Letters, Ideas Welcome!

Your neighborhood, your paper: The FBN welcomes readers' letters, thoughts and story ideas. Anything from "hard news" ideas to neighborhood-related poetry or cartoons! Submissions subject to editing or holding, as space requires. E-mail: foggybottomnews@yahoo.com or see mailing address in masthead.

## West End Library to Host 'Front-Page' Press Panel

The West End Library, 24th and L Sts. NW, will host a talk and panel discussion as part of the "Cover to Cover – Life Through the Lens of The Washington Post" series.

The event, "The Front Page – How National Headlines Impact Us All," to be held Saturday, Jan. 28 at 11 a.m., will be preceded by a Friends of the West End Library coffee klatch at 10:30 a.m.

The program is a cooperative effort of the D.C. Public Library Foundation, D.C. Public Library Music & Recreation, the Washington Post, and the Newseum. Several other events in the series will take place at other branch libraries.

*The West End Library at 24th & L Sts. will host a panel discussion on the press this Saturday, Jan. 28.*

The West End Library event is free and open to the public and the sponsors ask that you RSVP by e-mailing avelazco@dcplfoundation.org or by calling 202-727-3258.

## FBA Sets Community Tours

The FBA's Community Improvement Committee is planning several neighborhood tours in the coming months. The tours are free and open to all interested residents.

The first tour will be of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, at 728 23rd Street NW, on Sat. Feb. 11 at 10:30 a.m. At the end of the Civil war, Edwin M. Stanton, President Lincoln's Secretary of War, was persuaded to move the church building from Kalorama Hospital to a lot on 23rd Street between G and H, donated by Mrs. Catherine Pearson, a member of St. John's. St. Mary's was designed by James Renwick, the distinguished architect of the Smithsonian Castle and the Renwick Gallery.

Subsequent planned tours include:

**March:** The State Department's Diplomatic Rooms (tentative).

**April:** Backstage at the Kennedy Center.

For more information, contact Jackie Lemire of the FBA's Community Improvement Committee, jglemire@aol.com or 202-337-2167.

**THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS**
**c/o West End Library**
**24th & L Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20037**

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The Foggy Bottom News is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the FBN reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

*FBA Officers:*
PRESIDENT – Joy Howell
VICE PRESIDENT – Barbara Spillinger
SECRETARY – Jill Nevius
TREASURER – Russell Conlan
MEMBERSHIP – Edward B. Gable Jr.

*FBA Board of Directors:*
Ellie Becker, Joseph G. Chaplick, Elizabeth B. Elliott, Jacqueline G. Lemire, Michael G. Malloy, James R. O'Leary, Ronald Cocome (Immediate Past President; *Ex Officio*)

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# Use that FBA Membership Card!

Foggy Bottom Association members receive a variety of discounts from local area merchants simply by showing our membership card! Here's a list – and stay tuned for our "Preferred Merchants Program," coming in 2006! The membership card aso allows FBA members use of GWU's Gelman Library.

## FBA MEMBER DISCOUNTS

**Blackie's Restaurant**
1217 22nd St., NW
Tel: 333-1100 • Fax: 331-7850
*50% discount on any wines offered by the glass; valid only with dinner*

**Chateau Florist**
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 293-9005
*10% off any arrangement of at least $25*

**Danny Diaz, Ltd. (Men's Clothing)**
522 23rd St., NW
Tel: 296-2767
*20% off merchandise; 10% off men's and women's alterations*

**Elenco Salon**
504 23rd St., NW
Tel: 293-3006
*$5 discount on any hair service*

**Expressions (Fine Clothing)**
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 775-9299
*15% discount*

**Grillfish Restaurant**
1200 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Tel: 331-7310 • Fax: 331-3751
*10% off food purchases (does not apply to alcohol)*

**Marshall's Bar & Grille**
2524 L St., NW
Tel: 333-1155 • Fax: 333-4664
*10% off; does not apply to any other discounts*

**Metropolitan Optical**
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 659-6555 • Fax: 659-2134
*15% off any eyewear purchase; not applicable with other offers or on contact lenses*

**New Hampshire Valet**
600 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Tel: 342-5700
*10% off dry cleaning, laundry, shoe repair*

**One Fish Two Fish**
2423 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 882-0977
*10% off total meal bill for dine-in and carry-out only; not available on delivery orders*

**Primi Piatti**
2013 Eye St., NW
Tel: 223-3600 • Fax: 296-3725
*10% off check*

**ProEuro Hair Design**
2100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 887-9191
*10% off haircut and style; 20% off color highlights or perm*

**600 Restaurant at the Watergate**
600 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Tel: 337-5890 • Fax: 337-5895
*10% discount after 8:00 p.m. (does not apply to bar service or alcohol)*

**Sizzling Express Columbia Plaza**
538 23rd St., NW
Tel: 659-1234 • Fax: 659-2800
*10% off hot foods, salads, sandwiches and fountain sodas (does not apply to sushi)*

**Thai Coast Restaurant**
2514 L St., NW
Tel: 333-2460 • Fax: 333-2462
*10% discount on food in restaurant (does not apply to alcohol)*

**Watch & Band Clinic**
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 785-4552 • Fax: 785-4552
*15% off leather watch bands*

**Watergate Gallery & Frame Design**
2552 Virginia Ave., NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 338-4488 • Fax: 338-4451
*10% off custom framing*

**Watergate Photo & Copy**
2560 Virginia Ave., NW
Tel: 333-7700 • Fax: 333-3083
*10% discount*

**Watergate Valet**
2546 Virginia Ave., NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 337-7570
*10% discount on dry cleaning and laundry*

**Watergate Wine and Beverage**
2544 Virginia Ave., NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 333-0636 • Fax: 965-2416
*Wine: 10% off per case • Liquor or Water: 5% off per case*

**Williams The Tailor**
825 21st St., NW
Tel: 822-8000
*10% off general alteration and repair*

**The Wine Specialist**
2115 M St., NW
Tel: 833-0707 • Fax: 833-9507
*10% off on all non-sale items (includes single bottle / cases of wine, liquor, beer, water, soda, etc.); not valid with other sales and promotions*

# SAVE THE DATES!

**2006 FBA General Membership Meetings:**

January 30
February 27
March 27
April 24
May 22
June 26 – Annual meeting
*Speakers TBA*

**All meetings at Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, at 7:30 pm.**